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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,333	05/29/2001	Kurt G. Robson	ORCL5727	6000

			EXAMINER
22430	7590	05/16/2005	JARRETT, SCOTT L

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/867,333	ROBSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Scott L. Jarrett	3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>29 May 2001</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-72</u> is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-72</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>29 May 2001</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
      application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Abstract

1.   Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is longer than 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2.   Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is

directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two-prong test of:

(1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and

(2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the

technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural

phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to

promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e., the physical sciences as

opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory

subject matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow

apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts.

Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention

must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

Regarding claims 1-18 the recited steps of managing a project that includes a

plurality of interdependent tasks does not apply, involve, or use the technological arts

since all of the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a

pencil and paper. These steps only constitute an idea of how to define a plurality of

interdependent tasks.

Mere intended or nominal use of a component, albeit within the technological arts, does not confer statutory subject matter to an otherwise abstract idea if the component does not apply, involve, use, or advance the underlying process. In the present case, none of the recited steps are directed to anything in the technological arts as explained above with the exception of the recitation of the terms "database" and "computer network" in Claim 1, "web browser" in Claim 11 and "Internet" in Claim 14. Therefore, the terms discussed are taken to merely recite a field of use and/or nominal recitation of technology.

Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. In the present case, the claimed invention defines a plurality of tasks and their interdependencies (i.e., repeatable) that can be updated (i.e., useful and tangible).

Although the recited process produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result, since the claimed invention, as a whole, is not within the technological arts as explained above, claims 1-18 are deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding Claims 19-36 the recited method for participating in a project does not apply, involve, or use the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. The claimed invention, as a whole, is not within the technological art as explained above claims 19-36 are deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Mere intended or nominal use of a component, albeit within the technological arts, does not confer statutory subject matter to an otherwise abstract idea if the component does not apply, involve, use, or advance the underlying process. In the present case, none of the recited steps are directed to anything in the technological arts as explained above with the exception of the recitation of the terms "web browser" in Claim 29 and "Internet" in Claim 33. Therefore, the terms discussed are taken to merely recite a field of use and/or nominal recitation of technology.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4.   Claims 1-5, 7-24, 26-41, 43-59 and 61-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as

being anticipated by Microsoft Project 2000 (commercially available in November 1999)

as evidenced by:

I. Pyron, Tim, Special Edition Using Microsoft Project 2000 (September 2000),

herein after referred to as reference A.

II. Microsoft Project 2000 Feature Guide, herein after referred to as reference B.

III. Microsoft Project 2000 Extends Project Management to Entire Teams

(November 1999), herein after referred to as reference C.

Regarding Claims 1, 19, 37 and 55 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a

commercially available/released in November 1999 (reference C: Paragraph 3, Page 1)

project management method and system for managing a plurality of projects, entities,

resources, tasks/activities and team collaboration processes (reference A: Chapter 1:

The Power of Microsoft Project; Chapter 2: Learning The Basics of Microsoft Project;

reference C: Pages 1-3). Microsoft Project 2000 further teaches that the collaborative

project management method and system consists of a plurality of components such as

Microsoft Project Central, which inter and intra organizational/enterprise project

management over the Internet (reference C: Paragraph 3, Page 1).

More specifically Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a method for managing projects

and enabling teams to participate in projects wherein the projects include a plurality of

interdependent tasks/activities and timelines and further comprises:

- defining and storing a plurality of project related items and information such as

tasks, activities, messages, notes, documents, issues, resources, resource

assignments, statuses and the like (defining and storing a first and second task;

reference A: Chapter 2: Introduction to Gantt Chart View, Pages 176-185; Chapter 5:

Scheduling Tasks, Pages 8-10; Chapter 15: Introduction to Microsoft Project Central,

Pages 78-141; Figures 15.7 and 15.24 as shown below);

- defining a plurality of dependency relationships between a plurality of items

(reference A: Chapter 6: Understanding Dependency Links, Entering Dependency

Links, Pages 11-13 ; Table 6.1 as shown below; Figure 15.7 as shown below);

- enabling the remote and local updating of the status of a plurality of tasks over

a computer network (reference A: Chapter 15: Using Workgroups in Tracking Process,

Pages 84-93; Chapter 16: Tracking Work on the Project, Pages 142-175; Figures 15.16-

15.25);

- enabling the remote and local definition of a plurality of items (tasks, issues,

change request/order, defects, requests for enhancements, etc.) wherein the item/issue

identifies a problem with the project whose resolution is to be tracked, includes at least

one step (task, activity, etc.) to be taken to resolve the issue pending approval

(authorization; e.g. approval of the task/item by the project manager) and identifies the

approved steps to resolve the issue (reference A: Figures 15.7 (unconfirmed team

assignments are tagged), 15.25 and 15.34 (change requests) as shown below; Figures

15.20-15.21 and 15.34);

    - storing the plurality of items (issues) in a database (reference A: Chapter 19:

Saving Project the Entire Project in a Database; reference C: Paragraph 2, Page 3);

and

    - enabling the remote and local definition and storage of at least one

dependency relationship between the issue and at least one task (reference A: Chapter

6: Understanding Dependency Links, Entering Dependency Links, Pages 11-14;

Figures 15.7 and 15.25 as shown below).

Figure 15.24. When requesting a new task, the team member must supply the appropriate information for the task.

Figure 1: Figure 15.24, reference A

Figure 15.25. A new task request from a resource must be approved by the project manager.
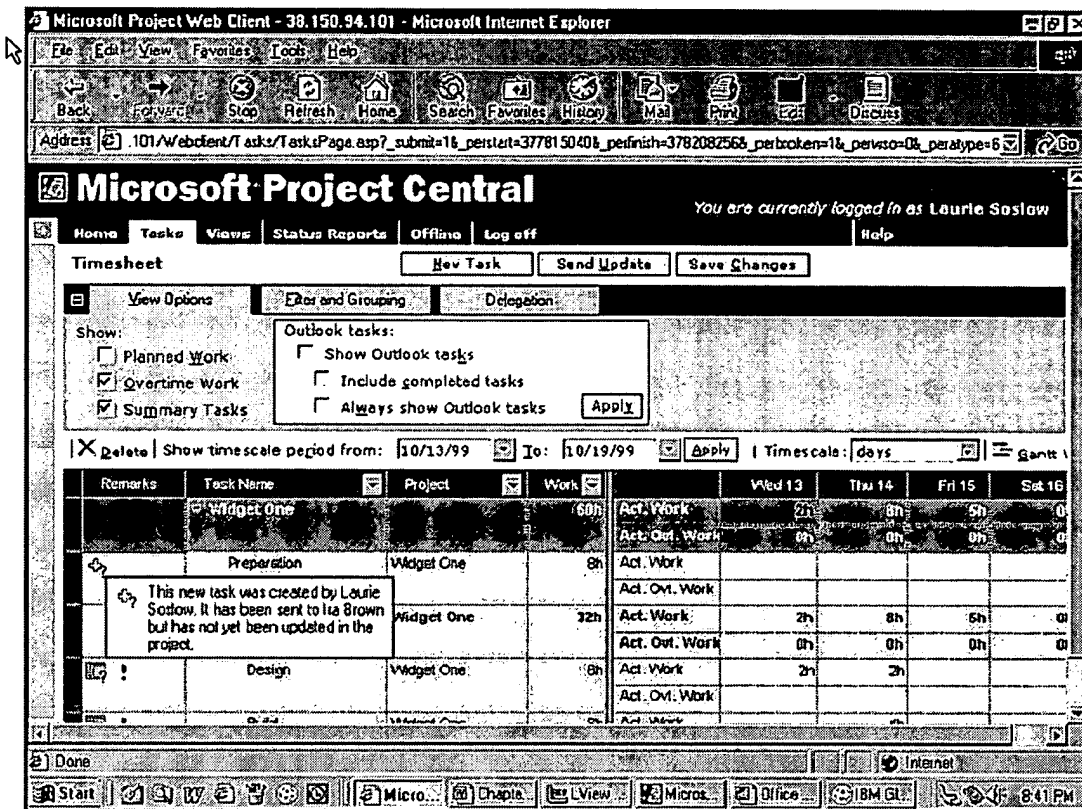

Figure 2: Figure 15.25, reference A

Figure 15.7. Unconfirmed team assignments will be flagged in the Indicators column.
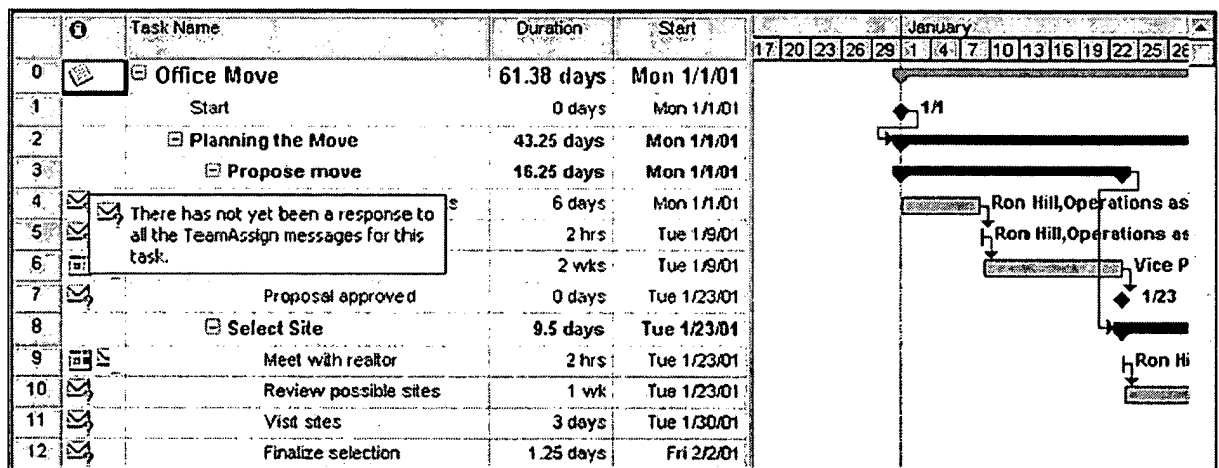
Figure 3: Figure 15.7, reference A

Figure 15.34. In this step the topics for the status report are defined.

Three topics are predefined
in Project Central.

Click here to add a
topic in a specific order.

Define additional
sections.

Add a section
description here.

Use these buttons to
resequence the sections.

Figure 4: Figure 15.34, reference A

Regarding Claims 2, 20-21, 38 and 56 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system further comprising the definition of

access rights (permissions) for at least one task and/or issue (reference A: Chapter 15:

Introduction to Project Central, Modifying the Personal Gantt, Pages 78-85 and 120-

125; Figure 15.2 "Accessing Project Central" as shown below; "Personal Gantt Chart",
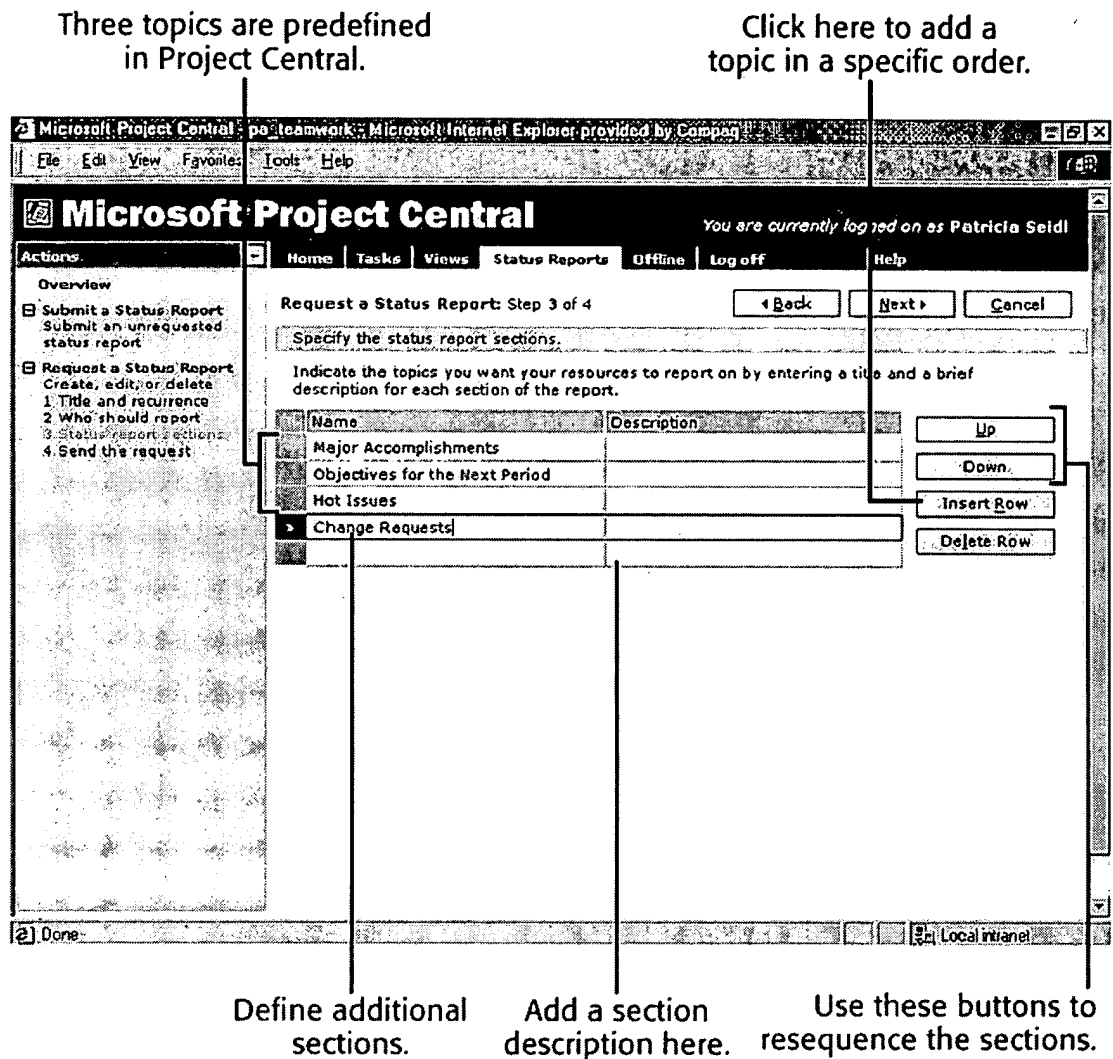
Figure 15.45).

Figure 15.2. The Microsoft Project Central Log On enables you to log on to your personal Project Central home page.
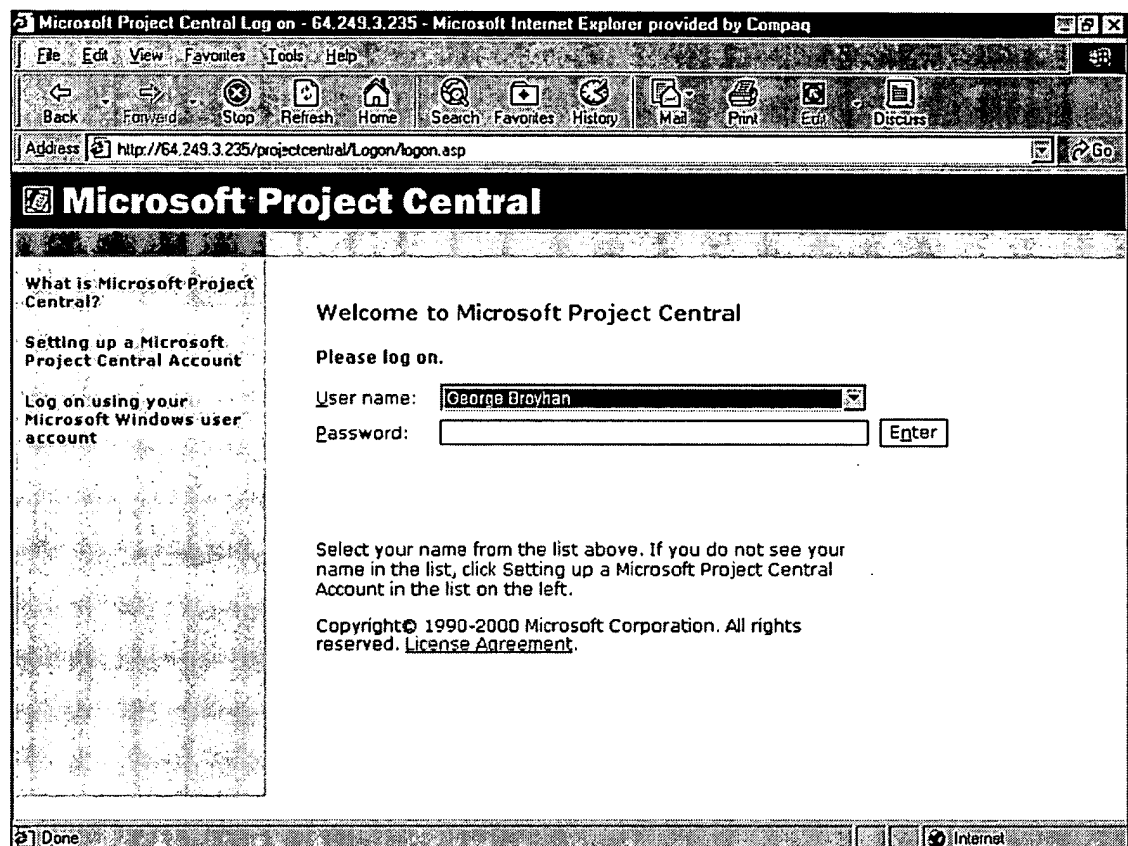
Figure 5: Figure 15.2, reference A

Regarding Claims 3, 22, 39, and 57 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the permission (access

rights, access control) defines at least one of the following changing the status of a task

and changing a dependency between tasks (project manager controls/accepts updates

and changes to the project; reference A: Chapter 15: Using Workgroups in Tracking

Progress, Pages 78-141; "As work progresses on the task, the resources will send

Status messages to the project manager. After the status information has been

reviewed, the project manager can accept the reported work values as valid and they

are immediately recorded in the project plan.", Page 161; Chapter 16: Using Time

Sheets, Page 1; Figures 15.16 – 15.25).

Regarding Claims 4, 23, 40 and 58 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the dependency

relationships include at least one of the following Start-Start, Start-Finish, Finish-Start

and Finish-Finish (reference A: Chapter 6: Understanding Dependency Links, Entering

Dependency Links, Pages 11-14; Table 6.1 as shown below).

Table 6.1. Linking Relationships Available in Microsoft Project

| Dependency Type	Code	Meaning
Finish-to-Start	FS	Predecessor's finish determines successor's start
Start-to-Start	SS	Predecessor's start determines successor's start
Finish-to-Finish	FF	Predecessor's finish determines successor's finish
Start-to-Finish	SF	Predecessor's start determines successor's finish

Figure 6: Table 6.1, reference A

Regarding Claims 5, 24, 41 and 59 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein at least one of the

dependency relationships defines a lag time between the start and/or finish of at least

two items (tasks, activities, issues, etc.) depending on the dependency relationship

(reference A: Chapter 6: Understanding Dependency Links, Entering Dependency

Links, Pages 11-14; Figures 6.2 and 6.9 as shown below).

Figure 6.2. You can use lag time to delay the successor task. Lead time, however, allows tasks to overlap, thereby finishing earlier than would be possible otherwise.
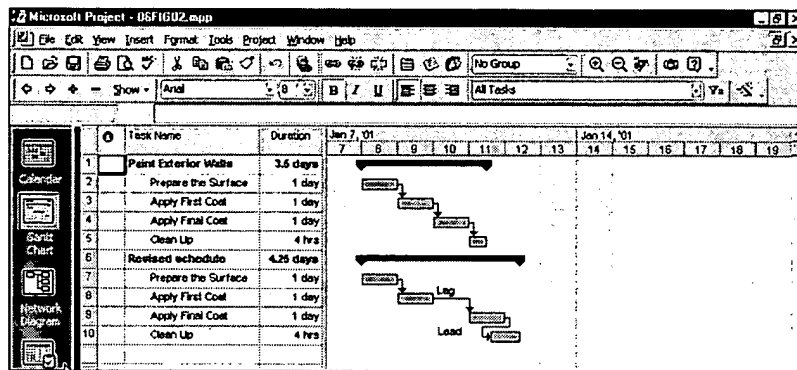
Figure 7: Figure 6.2, reference A

Figure 6.9. Use the Task Information dialog box to define types of predecessor links and lag and lead times.

Figure 8: Figure 6.9, reference A

Regarding Claims 7, 26, 43 and 61 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project management and collaboration method and system wherein each defined issue (task, activity, item, etc.) includes a status and further includes the ability to update the status of each issue (status reports, timesheets, etc.; reference A: Chapter 15: Using

Microsoft Project in Workgroups, Pages 78-141; Chapter 16: Tracking and Analyzing

Progress, Pages 142-175; Figures 15.3-15.26).

Regarding Claims 8, 27, 44 and 62 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the status of the tasks

and/or issue includes at least one of the following (selected from the group) not started

(unstarted), on track (task in progress), complete (completed task), in trouble, on hold

and cancelled (reference A: Chapter 16: Tracking and Analyzing Progress, Pages 142-

175; Figure 16.14 as shown below).

Figure 16.14. Progress marks on the Network Diagram nodes indicate tasks that have started or are complete.
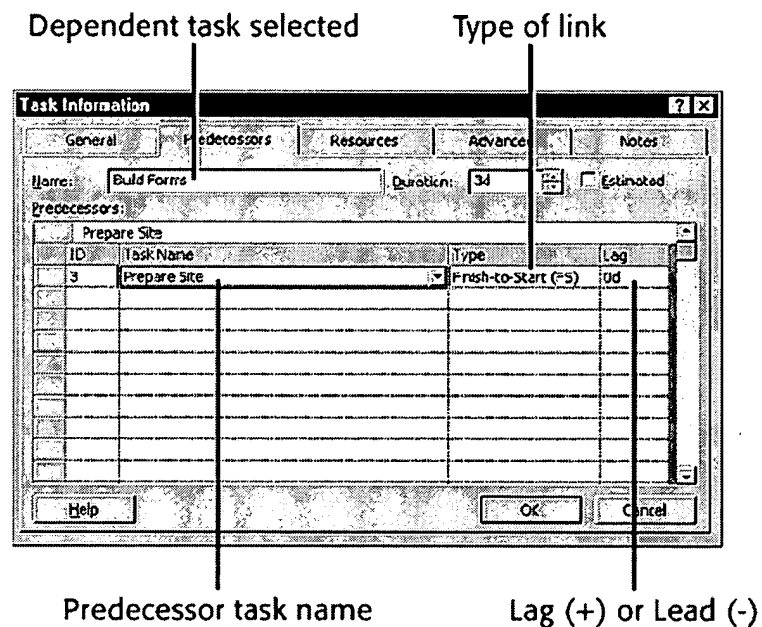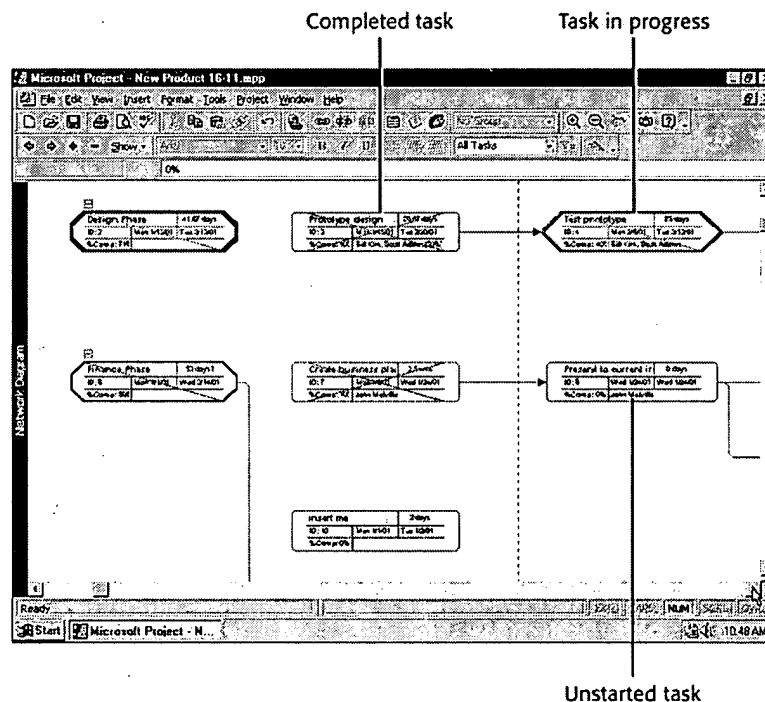

Figure 9: Figure 16.4, reference A

Regarding Claims 9, 28, 45 and 63 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the permission further

defines the ability (right) to change at least one dependency relationship (project

manager controls/accepts updates and changes to the project; reference A: Chapter

15: Using Workgroups in Tracking Progress, Pages 78-141; "As work progresses on the

task, the resources will send Status messages to the project manager. After the status

information has been reviewed, the project manager can accept the reported work

values as valid and they are immediately recorded in the project plan.", Page 161;

Chapter 16: Using Time Sheets, Page 161-165; Figures 15.16 – 15.25).

Regarding Claims 10, 46 and 64 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the system provides a

remotely accessible graphical representation of a plurality of tasks, task/issue

dependency relationships and issues (Microsoft Project Central; reference A: Chapter

15: Introduction to Project Central, Pages 78-97; Figures 15.4, 15.7, 15.24 and 15.25 as

shown above).

Regarding Claims 11, 14-15, 33-34, 47, 50-51 and 65 Microsoft Project 2000

teaches a project management and collaboration method and system wherein the

graphical representation is accessible via the Internet (Web browser) and the system

supports inter/intra organizational/enterprise projects (distributed project teams;

reference A: Chapter 5: Scheduling Tasks, Pages 8-11; Chapter 15: Using Microsoft

Project in Workgroups, Introduction to Project Central, Pages 78-141; Chapter 16:

Tracking and Analyzing Progress, Pages 142-175; Figures 15.4, 15.7, 15.24 and 15.25

as shown above; reference C: Paragraph 3, Page 1).

Regarding Claims 12, 31, 48, 66 and 68-69 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a

project management and collaboration method and system further comprising defining

and storing an identify of at least one entity allowed access to and/or having

responsibility for the plurality of tasks and/or issues (assigning tasks/activities, personal

Gantt chart, to do lists, etc.; reference A: Chapter 5: Scheduling Tasks, Pages 8-11;

Chapter 15: Using Microsoft Project in Workgroups, Pages 78-141; Chapter 16:

Tracking and Analyzing Progress, Pages 142-175).

Regarding Claims 13, 32, 49 and 67 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the collaborative project

management system supports the definition, storage, tracking and reporting on a

plurality of items (tasks, issues, resources, etc.) and further wherein those items can be

assigned (associated with, linked to, etc.) a plurality of customizable resources

(individuals, facilities, equipment and the like). More specifically Microsoft Project 2000

teaches a collaborative project management system wherein the any of a plurality of

customizable resources (entity) is allowed access to and/or has responsibility for the

plurality of tasks and/or issues includes at least one of the following (selected from the

group) a project team (resource group, workgroup, project role, etc.), project member,

subcontractor and vendor (reference A: Chapter 5: Scheduling Tasks, Pages 8-11;

Chapter 10: Assigning resources to tasks, Pages 40-77; Chapter 15: Using Microsoft

Project in Workgroups; reference B: Grouping Tasks and Resources, Pages 6-7).

ID	Task Name	Critical	Resource Names	Start	Finish
	Resource Group: Consultant	No		Thu 2/25/99	Mon 3/8/99
	Critical: Yes	Yes		Thu 2/25/99	Mon 3/8/99
2	Conduct Utilization Survey	Yes	john	Thu 2/25/99	Mon 3/1/99
3	Research Software Solution	Yes	berry	Tue 3/2/99	Mon 3/8/99
	Critical: No	No		Thu 2/25/99	Mon 3/1/99
1	Create Cost Efficiency Study	No	john	Thu 2/25/99	Mon 3/1/99
	Resource Group: Contractor	Yes		Tue 3/9/99	Wed 3/17/99
	Critical: Yes	Yes		Tue 3/9/99	Wed 3/17/99
8	Measure for Wiring	Yes	paul	Tue 3/9/99	Wed 3/10/99
9	Prepare Wire	Yes	crew	Wed 3/10/99	Fri 3/12/9
10	Install Cable	Yes	crew	Fri 3/12/99	Wed 3/17/99
	Resource Group: In-house	No		Thu 3/4/99	Thu 3/4/99
	Critical: No	No		Thu 3/4/99	Thu 3/4/99
6	Present Study to Board	No	reed	Thu 3/4/99	Thu 3/4/99
	Resource Group: In-house,Consu	No		Tue 3/2/99	Wed 3/3/99
	Critical: No	No		Tue 3/2/99	Wed 3/3/99
5	Create Network Proposal	No	reed,berry	Tue 3/2/99	Wed 3/3/99
	Resource Group: IT Group	No		Tue 3/9/99	Mon 3/15/99
	Critical: No	No		Tue 3/9/99	Mon 3/15/99
11	Install Network Cards	No	sam	Tue 3/9/99	Mon 3/15/9

Figure 10: Team Roles, reference B: Page 7

Regarding Claims 16, 35, 52 and 70 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the graphical

representation includes a expandable hierarchical tree that shows a plurality of tasks,

task dependency relationships and at least one issue (reference A: Chapter 5:

Scheduling Tasks, Pages 8-11).

Regarding Claims 17, 30, 53 and 71 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein the system enables uses to

define (entering, prompting, etc.), store, track and update a plurality of items as

discussed above.   Microsoft Project 2000 further teaches a collaborative project

management system wherein a plurality of item dependency relationships are defined,

stored, tracked, updated (e.g. enabling users to update/revise any or all of the

information related to the item including but not limited to dependency relationships

whenever the item is updated) and report one as discussed above.

Regarding Claims 18, 36, 54 and 72 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system further comprising the ability to

associate (link) a document (files, web pages, emails, etc.) with at least one of the tasks

and/or issues and store the associated document in a database (reference A: Chapter

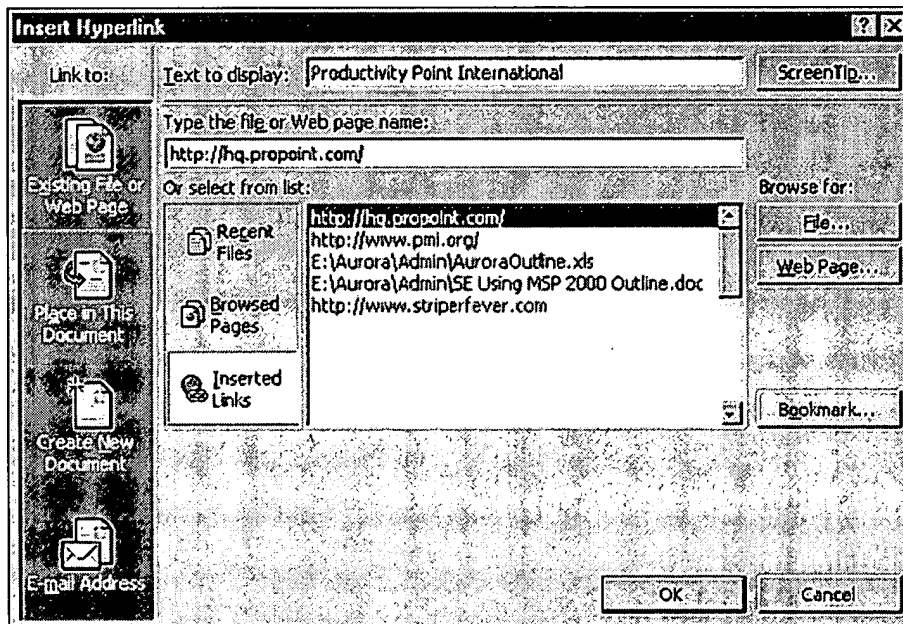5: Attaching Hyperlinks to Tasks, Pages 8-11; Figure 5.25 as shown below).

Figure 11: Figure 5.25, reference A

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5.   Claims 6, 25, 42 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Microsoft Project 2000 as evidenced by:

        I. Pyron, Tim, Special Edition Using Microsoft Project 2000 (September 2000),

herein after referred to as reference A.

        II. Microsoft Project 2000 Feature Guide, herein after referred to as reference B.

        III. Microsoft Project 2000 Extends Project Management to Entire Teams

(November 1999), herein after referred to as reference C.

        applied to claims 1-5, 7-24, 26-41, 43-59 and 61-72 above, and further in view of

official notice.

        Regarding Claims 6, 25, 42 and 60 Microsoft Project 2000 teaches a project

management and collaboration method and system wherein a plurality of tasks/items

(issues, activities, etc.) are defined, stored, tracked and monitored as discussed above.

        Microsoft Project 2000 does not expressly teach that the items/issues were

foreseen or unforeseen (problem identified by the issue is a problem that was previously

unidentified at the time when the tasks where defined.

        Official notice is taken that the tracking of foreseen (planned for) and unforeseen

(unplanned for, unanticipated) items (issues, change request, enhancement requests,

activities, action items, defects, bugs, etc.) is old and very well known and a key aspect

of any project management effort/activity. More specifically the ability to successfully complete a project is in many ways dependent on the project's (project team, project plan, etc.) ability to manage unanticipated items (tasks, issues, etc.) which inevitably occur.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the collaborative project management system and method, with its ability to track/manage a plurality of items including but not limited to issues and change requests, as taught by Microsoft Project 2000 would have benefited from utilizing well known and widely practiced project management techniques for managing both anticipated and unanticipated issues (incidents, tasks, bugs and the like) thereby making the project more likely to succeed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Harmon et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,563,994, teach a method and system for managing projects that includes a plurality of task dependencies (sequence and temporal relationships).

- Miller, U.S. Patent no. 6,101,481, teaches a method and system for managing a plurality of projects that includes a plurality of task (items, activities) dependencies, which are represented in a hierarchical manner (tree structure). Miller further teaches that managing project tasks dependencies, tracking "actions to complete tasks" and restricting access to tasks (security) are old and well know.

- Hurd, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,535, teaches a method and system for tracking issues comprising the steps of defining issues, assigning issues (responsible entities, assigned party, etc.) and tracking issue resolution/implementation (change request, solution proposal, solution approval/change order). Hurd further teaches that the issue tracking system further comprises a plurality of servers, clients, a database and a computer network. Hurd teaches an issue tracking and resolution system wherein issues are in one of a plurality of statuses (states) including open, hold, assigned, proposed, accepted, closed and void.

- Bugzilla.org – Roadmap and releases web pages teaches a publicly available and widely used issue tracking and management system and method that was released in 1998 as part of the mozilla.org project.

- Barnson, Mathew, The Bugzilla Guide, teaches an Internet based issue tracking and management system and method. Barnson further teaches that the Internet based issue tracking and management system comprises a database for storing the plurality of issue information (meta-data), permission management (access rights) and issue dependencies ("inter-bug dependencies and dependency graphing.") Barnson further teaches that the issue tracking system enables users to update issue statuses and that those issues statues include but are not limited to new, assigned, reopened and the like.

- Mozilla.org – Bugs web pages, teaches a publicly available open source issue tracking and management system named Bugzilla. Mozilla.org further teaches that the issue tracking system enables users to define issues dependencies and add attachments (files, documents) to issues. Mozilla.org further teaches that the lifecycle of an issue includes a plurality of states/statuses including but not limited to new, fixed, duplicate and the like.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SJ
5/5/2005

TARIO R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER